Section / Officer / Lab	Scale of Pay	No. of ACs
PIMS Lab (R. No. 101)	—	01
102 NISAGE Lab		01
103 Computer Lab		01
Computer Scientist Lab (106) (Formerly Tape Lab)		02
Agri. Res. Info. System Lab (111-A)		03
Server Room (111-B)		04
NATP Lab (112)		06
Head, CA (114)	Rs. 16400-22400	01
Bio-Informatics Lab (118)	—	01
Revolving Fund Scheme (123)		01
Computer Application Lab (129)		04
Advance Comp. Lab (130)		04
Data Entry Lab (131)		02
Kept in Store (unserviceable)		01
		44
GRAND TOTAL:		87

Technology Mission on Coconut

3517. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a Technology Mission on Coconut;

(b) if so, the progress made so far in that regard;

(c) by which date the Technology Mission would be set up; and

(d) the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The draft report of the proposed Technology Mission on Coconut to be implemented through Coconut Development Board in major coconut producing States was thoroughly discussed in a meeting with all stake holders in the coconut industry including representatives of coconut producing State. The participating State Governments were requested to give their suggestions, if any, for further modification. Suggestions / proposals have been received from Government of Kerala.

(c) The Technology Mission on Coconut is expected to be approved within three months.

(d) The document on Technology Mission on Coconut is being finalised.

Transfer of Disaster Management to Ministry of Home Affairs

3518. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the disaster management has been transferred to the Ministry of Home Affairs;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what additional infrastructure the Ministry is going to provide for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rule specify the subjects to be handled by different Ministries and Departments of the Central Government. These Rules assign the subject of handling of natural calamities to the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

Drought in Karnataka

3519. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Central team was deputed by Government to assess severe drought situation in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of assessment made by the Central team and its recommendations; and

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has sought Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 894.65 crores; if so, the amount released so far and the details of steps proposed to be taken for the benefit of the drought affected people?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The team felt that deficiency of rainfall coupled with long dry spells resulted in drought like situation. According to the team, there is depletion of water tables, problem of availability of drinking water and need for generation of employment.